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Letter dated 30 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of that letter and its annex, which contains the text of a statement made by H.E. Atay A. Raşit, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 30 June 1995 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

In answer to recent allegations concerning the construction of a children's playground in the Turkish Cypriot sector of Nicosia, contained in the letter addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative, Mr. Alecos Shambos (A/49/925-S/1995/511), I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of a statement made by H.E. Mr. Atay A. Raşit, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, on 27 June 1995.

I shall be grateful if the present letter and its annex are circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

H.E. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Appendix

Statement by H.E. Mr. Atay A. Raşit dated 27 June 1995

Unfounded allegations are being put out by the Greek Cypriot side regarding the construction of a children's playground, which is already in progress in the area known as the Yiğitler (Rocas) Bastion in the Turkish quarter of Nicosia. It is being observed that, in a deliberate attempt to exploit this issue, the Greek Cypriot administration is claiming that the excavations being carried out in connection with the playground are for military purposes.

These allegations are totally baseless. The work being done, which is totally within the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, is aimed at creating a recreation area for the benefit of the civilian population.

In order not to harm the historical and natural fabric of the area, the infrastructure of the park has been planned underground. The work being carried out for this purpose is deemed necessary in order not to cause an unnecessary reduction in the size of the area.

Since the construction site is higher than the sewage system of the city, the excavations have to be deep so that the park's sewage system can be connected with that of the city. The soil that is being taken out will be used as refill upon completion of the work.

The reaction shown by the Greek Cypriot side regarding this matter is totally unwarranted and is aimed at diverting the attention of the world public opinion from the arming frenzy in which the Greek Cypriot side has been engaged. Since it is the Greek Cypriot side that is engaged in an intensive militarization campaign, baseless allegations of this nature cannot be other than diversionary tactics on the part of the Greek Cypriot side.

It is also known that the aim of the Greek Cypriot side is to prevent the implementation of the confidence-building measures package envisaged by the Secretary-General. It should be borne in mind, however, that, as long as the Greek Cypriot side continues its rigid and intransigent attitude and negative propaganda campaign against the Turkish Cypriot side, it will not be possible for the efforts in the direction of a lasting solution in the island to reach the desired results.

In the light of the above, we hope and expect that all concerned, above all the United Nations, will urge the Greek Cypriot side to abandon its adversarial attitude towards the Turkish Cypriot side and take positive steps towards reconciliation.